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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.	042390.P9464
First Inventor or Application Identifier	Louis A. Lippincott
Title	INTERNET DOMAIN AND TIME INDEX BASED VIDEO EMAIL SYSTEM
Express Mail Label No.	EM014066228

APPLICATION ELEMENTS See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents

ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

- ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g. PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original, and a duplicate for fee processing)
- ☒ Specification Total Pages
(a preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the Invention
 - Cross References to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to Microfiche Appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) Total Sheets
- Oath or Declaration Total Pages
 - ☐ Newly executed (original copy)
 - ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(or continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)
 - ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application; see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).

- ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
- Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
 - ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
 - ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☒ Power of Attorney
- ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO - 1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
- Preliminary Amendment
- Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
- *Small Entity ☐ Statement filed in prior application, Statement(s) ☐ Status still proper and desired
- Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
(if foreign priority is claimed)
- Other:

*NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 & 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 CFR, § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 CFR, § 1.28).

16. If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: _____

Prior application Information: Examiner: _____

Group/Art Unit: _____

For **CONTINUATION** or **DIVISIONAL** APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☐ Customer Number of Bar Code Label

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bare code label here)

or ☒ Correspondence address below

Name	BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP				
Address	12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor				
City	Los Angeles	State	California	Zip Code	90025
Country	U.S.A.	Telephone	(310) 207-3800	Fax	(310) 820-5988

Name (Print/Type)	Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139		
Signature		Date	09/28/00

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FEE TRANSMITTAL

Patent fees are subject to annual revision on October 1.
These are the fees effective October 1, 1997.
Small Entity payments must be supported by a small entity statement,
otherwise large entity fees must be paid, and must be PTO/SB/05-12.
See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.20 and 1.201.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) **880.00**

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	09/28/00
First Named Inventor	Louis A. Lippincott
Examiner Name	
Group Art Unit	
Attorney Docket Number	042390_P9464

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)

1. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any over payments to:

Deposit Account Number **02-2666**
Deposit Account Name **Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman LLP**

- ☒ Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 ☐ Charge the Issue Fee Set in 37 CFR 1.18 at the Mailing of the Notice of Allowance.

2. ☒ Payment Enclosed:

☒ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Other

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEE

Large Fee Code	Entity (\$)	Small Fee Code	Entity (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105	130	205	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127	50	227	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139	130	139	130	Non-English specification	
147	2,520	147	2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
112	920	112	920	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113	1,840	113	1,840	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115	110	215	55	Extension for response within first month	
116	380	216	190	Extension for response within second month	
117	870	217	435	Extension for response within third month	
118	1,360	218	680	Extension for response within fourth month	
128	1,850	228	925	Extension for response within fifth month	
119	300	219	150	Notice of Appeal	
120	300	220	150	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121	260	221	130	Request for oral hearing	
138	1,360	138	1,360	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140	110	240	55	Petition to revive - unavoidably	
141	1,210	241	605	Petition to revive - unintentionally	
142	1,210	242	605	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143	430	243	215	Design issue fee	
144	580	244	290	Plant issue fee	
122	130	122	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123	50	123	50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126	240	126	240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581	40	581	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146	760	246	380	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
149	760	249	380	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
Other fee (specify) <u>Recording of Assignment</u>					40.00
Other fee (specify) _____					

FEE CALCULATION (fees effective 10/01/96)

1. FILING FEE

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101	690	201	345	Utility filing fee	\$690
106	310	206	155	Design filing fee	
107	480	207	240	Plant filing fee	
108	690	208	345	Reissue filing fee	
114	150	214	75	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) **690.00**

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
24	-20** = 4	X \$18.00 =	72.00
4	-3** = 1	X \$78.00 =	78.00

Multiple Dependent

**or number of previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see below

Large Entity Small Entity


Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Description
103	18	203	9	Claims in excess of 20
102	78	202	39	Independent claims in excess of 3
104	270	204	135	Multiple Dependent claim
109	78	209	39	**Reissue independent claims over original patent
110	18	210	9	**Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) **150.00**

* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) **40.00**

SUBMITTED BY

Typed or Printed Name **Eric S. Hyman, Reg. No. 30,139**
Signature 

Complete (if applicable)

Reg. Number _____
Deposit Account User ID **02-2666**

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UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

FOR

INTERNET DOMAIN AND TIME INDEX BASED VIDEO EMAIL SYSTEM

INVENTOR:

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PREPARED BY:

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042390.P9464

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to video on demand (VOD) systems, and more particularly to emailing indexes of VOD program content.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

With the evolution of video and other media towards video on demand (VOD), distribution of television (TV) content is changing. In one scenario, VOD systems may incorporate streaming of "library" files that contain TV programs, Karaoke files, music, etc. These files may likely be fairly large, depending on the quality of the file. A content provider will store all of the supplied content on a database. Any user wanting to view a TV broadcast needs to establish a connection between their viewing device and the provider's server. The video server sends the content, in a compressed form, to a viewing device, such as a set-top box (STB) connected to a video display device, such as a monitor or television. The STB would then decode the content and transmit the decoded content to the video display device.

The user's STB would be capable of storing part or all of a TV program in a memory. The user can select any movie or program from a selection menu, and retain complete video stream control. Making use of non-linear digital editing, or non-sequential access, the user will then be able to "slow rewind," "fast rewind," "slow forward," "fast forward," or "pause" the viewing of the program. Because of the size of the viewing program, and due to intellectual property rights of the owners of the content, saving or copying a content for later viewing by others may not be practical, and may result in violation of intellectual property laws.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 illustrates an embodiment of the invention including an index memory coupled to a set-top-box (STB) processor.

Figure 2 illustrates an index memory device of an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 3 illustrates a graphics overlay screen for an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 4 illustrates a system of a plurality of embodiments of the invention having an index memory coupled to a STB at different venues coupled to a video-on-demand (VOD) service provider.

Figure 5 illustrates a graphics overlay screen of an embodiment of the invention having email capability for attaching encoded VOD segment representations.

Figure 6 illustrates a graphics overlay screen of an embodiment of the invention having basic email functionality.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The invention generally relates to a method and apparatus for creating audio/video command strings to eliminate the copying and transmission of large audio/video data streams. Referring to the figures, exemplary embodiments of the invention will now be described. The exemplary embodiments are provided to illustrate the invention and should not be construed as limiting the scope of the invention.

Figure 1 illustrates a system for receiving, viewing, recording, saving, sending information relating to video on demand (VOD) formatted streams. System 100 in **Figure 1** includes a set-top box (STB) processor 110, a user controller 120, communications channel 130, content index memory 140, content decoder 150, video/audio formatting module 160, and video/audio device 170. STB processor 110, may include, but is not limited to, a central processing unit (CPU), read and write memory (RAM), and read only memory (ROM) components. User controller 120 can be a infrared remote control, keyboard or computer mouse. One skilled in the art will recognize that user controller 120 may be any type of controller capable of receiving user commands, such as a voice activated controller. Communications channel 130 is the connection to a VOD service provider. Communications channel 130 could be a satellite connection, cable connection, or any other state of the art connection. Index memory 140 stores VOD content indexes, such as content ID, start time of a user selected segment of a VOD decoded stream, and stop time of a user selected segment of a VOD stream. Index memory 140 can be a non volatile read and write memory (NVRAM) or any other similar state of the art memory device available. Content

decoder 150 decodes the VOD stream received from a provider in a compressed format.

Video/audio formatting 160 arranges the VOD decoded stream into a stream that can be viewed and heard on video/audio device 170. Video/audio device 170 can be any device capable of being viewed and heard by a user, such as a television, stereo, or computer system.

In one embodiment, a user can select a segment of a VOD stream to record and save an encoded segment identifying indexes, such as beginning and ending of a stream that is currently or has been viewed by the user. By recording and saving only encoded indexes, very little storage space is used, and the VOD stream is not duplicated which, prevents infringing intellectual property laws. A scenario will be presented to illustrate the use of this embodiment.

Assume a first user has selected to view a VOD program. After the user selected the desired program, the stream is sent from the provider to the users STB system. The user can then view the decoded VOD program whenever she chooses. With use of non-sequential editing features, the user can pause, rewind, fast forward, or play the VOD program as desired. In this scenario, after the first user views the VOD program, the user believes that a segment of the content would be of interest to a second user. Therefore, the first user accesses the VOD program, rewinds to the desired segment, and records the segment that she believes would be of interest to the second user.

Assuming there are multiple segments of the VOD program that would be of interest to the second user, the first user repeats the recording for a multiplicity of segments. When the second user is available to view the recorded segments, the second user can choose any one of the recorded segments to begin viewing the content of the VOD

program. Thus, in one embodiment, because of the large amount of memory that would be required to store a complete recording of a plurality of segments, the recording of the segment only includes indexing of the segment(s).

Indexing of a segment of a VOD program is represented in a unique sequence of bytes. For example, assuming a user is viewing a Cable News Network (CNN ©) VOD program on February 15, 2000. The user selects to record a segment of the VOD program at 5:10PM, and the user selects to stop recording a segment of a VOD program at 5:12PM. STB processor 110 converts the VOD program identifier (ID) for the program selection into a string of text characters, e.g., "CNN February 15 2000." The string of text characters is then converted by STB processor 110 into a unique 32-bit identifier. In another embodiment, the unique identifier is retrieved from the service provider by STB processor 110. The unique identifier along with the start and stop indexes are then stored into index memory 140. In one embodiment, the start and stop indexes are stored in 1/4 second intervals. One skilled in the art will note that other timing intervals can be used, such as 1/8 second intervals. For the above example, a 10 byte sequence of 4838A5B7 03C5A0 03C780 is stored representing a first recorded segment which, is illustrated in **Figure 2** as segment 210. The 4838A5B7 bytes represent a unique ID for CNN © February 15, 2000. The 03C5A0 bytes represents the recording start-time, 17 hours and 10 minutes (5:10 PM), and the 03C780 represents the recording stop-time, 17 hours and two minutes (5:12PM), in 1/4 second intervals.

Assume the user selects a second content segment of the VOD program to record. In this instance, the user selects to begin recording the same VOD program at 5:15 PM, and stops recording at 5:22PM. The same sequence takes place, and the second recorded

segment indexes are stored in index memory 140 as segment 220. In this instance, a 10 byte sequence, 4838A5B7 03CA50 03D0E0 is the representation for the second recorded segment. As before, the 4838A5B7 bytes represent a unique ID for CNN © February 15, 2000. The 03CA50 bytes represents the recording start-time, 17 hours and 15 minutes (5:15 PM), and the 03CD0E0 represents the recording stop-time, 17 hours and twenty-two minutes (5:22PM), in 1/4 second intervals. Of course, the user can continue to record segments, before, after, or during the above recorded segments by rewinding, fast-rewinding, forwarding, or fast-forwarding the VOD program to a specified segment for the recordation of segment indexes. The user can optionally enter a customized identifier to be associated with the recorded segment. The customized identifier is entered by user controller 120. For example, a customized identifier can be entered as "Mary please see this CNN © piece." This identifier is displayed as illustrated in **Figure 3**.

The recorded segment representations can then be accessed by the user or an additional user(s) as long as the recorded segment representations are available in index memory 140, i.e. not deleted or erased. Assuming now that an additional user wishes to view a pre-recorded segment that is stored in index memory 140. This user selects a program to view, in this example CNN © February 15, 2000. STB 100 converts the selection to a string of text, e.g. "CNN February 15, 2000." Next, STB 100 converts the string of text into a unique 32-bit identifier, or receives an identifier from the VOD service provider. STB 100 searches index memory 140 for a match to the unique identifier. In this example, the search will result in two matches, segments 210 and 220. The STB includes the two segments 210 and 220 in a user selection option list that is

displayed on the users video device 170. An example option list is illustrated in **Figure**

3. The user option list can be any appropriate graphics overlay representation of user options.

Assuming the user selects segment 220 as their program choice by using user
5 controller 120, STB 100 then retrieves the information contained in segment 220 from
index memory 140. STB 100 converts the segment 220 to an order and sends a request
to the service provider. In one embodiment, the order is represented as "CNN
February 15 2000 03CA50 F0." This VOD program order represents 60 seconds (F0 in 1/4
second interval) of the segment content starting at 17 hours and 15 minutes (5:15 PM).
Assuming the VOD program is still available at the service provider, the VOD service
provider delivers the requested order to STB 100, where it is decoded by content decoder
150, formatted by video/audio formatting 160, and then displayed on video/audio
device 170. After part of the selected segment has been viewed by the user, such as the
first 30 seconds, STB 100 places an order with the service provider for the next 60
seconds of the selected segment 220. In this embodiment, the order is represented as
"CNN February 15 2000 03CB40 F0." The service provider then delivers the next 60
seconds of the selected segment 220. This repeats until all of the full seven minutes of
segment 220 is displayed for the viewer.

Therefore, in as little as 10 bytes of memory storage for each recorded segment
20 representation, the emulation of millions of bytes worth of VOD programming content
is realized. For example, with only 12K bytes of memory used in index memory 140,
over a thousand pre-recorded segments can be represented, without having to make
complete copies of program content.

In another embodiment, STB 100 can forward the represented segments by electronic mail (email) to another user. **Figure 4** illustrates a typical network of users having STB's and a VOD service provider. The user selects the program or pre-recorded segment, as described above, and selects email, as illustrated in **Figure 5**. STB 100 then prompts the user to enter the email address to forward the program or segment, as illustrated in **Figure 6**. The user can then access a typical email program having subject, recipients, and message entries. STB 100 then converts the program or segment into an order, as described above, and attaches the order to the email. Assuming the recipient has a similar STB and provider service, the recipient opens the received email, and the STB processes the attachment, and stores the represented segment or program in index memory 140. Assuming the represented segment or program is available at the service provider, the recipient can select the pre-recorded segment or program, as described above, and view the content.

Therefore, the sender has not copied the VOD content when attaching to an email. This embodiment can be useful for educational purposes as well. Teachers, professors, employers, friends and family members can send and receive VOD represented segments and programs that are of interest. And, the recipient and sender do not have to copy an entire segment or program. Thus, avoiding intellectual property infringements and reducing the memory size necessary for storage of segments and programs.

The above embodiments can also be stored on a device or medium and read by a machine to perform instructions. The device or medium may include a solid state memory device and/or a rotating magnetic or optical disk. The device or medium may

be distributed when partitions of instructions have been separated into different machines, such as across an interconnection of computers.

While certain exemplary embodiments have been described and shown in the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that such embodiments are merely
5 illustrative of and not restrictive on the broad invention, and that this invention not be limited to the specific constructions and arrangements shown and described, since various other modifications may occur to those ordinarily skilled in the art.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A apparatus comprising:

2 a first processor coupled to a communications channel device, the
3 communications device capable of receiving and transmitting information to a video-
4 on-demand (VOD) service provider;

5 a VOD content decoder coupled to the first processor;

6 a video and audio formatting processor coupled to the first processor and
7 the content decoder; and

8 an index memory coupled to the first processor,

9 wherein the index memory stores a plurality of VOD program segment
10 representations of one of whole VOD program content and partial VOD program
11 content.

12 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first processor receives information
13 from a user controller.

14 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the user controller is one of an infrared
15 remote controller, a keyboard, a computer mouse and a voice activated controller.

16 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of VOD program segment
17 representations comprises a content identification, a content segment start time, and a
18 content segment stop time.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the content identification is one of
2 received from a VOD service provider and selected by a user.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the content segment start time and the
2 content segment stop time are selected by a user.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein one of the plurality of program segment
2 representations requires 1 to 10 bytes of memory.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the index memory is a non-volatile
read and write memory (NVRAM).

1 9. A system comprising:
2 a video-on-demand (VOD) service provider coupled to a plurality of set-
top-box (STB) units, wherein each of the plurality of STB units comprises

3 a first processor coupled to a communications channel device, the
4 communications device capable of receiving and transmitting information to a VOD
5 service provider;

6 a VOD content decoder coupled to the first processor;

7 a video and audio formatting processor coupled to the first
8 processor and the content decoder; and

9 an index memory coupled to the first processor,
10

wherein the index memory stores a plurality of VOD program segment representations of one of whole VOD program content and partial VOD program content and each of the plurality of STB units are capable of communicating with each other.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the processor receives information from a user controller, the VOD service provider, and other processors located at different venues.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the user controller is one of an infrared remote controller, a keyboard, a computer mouse, and voice activated controller.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of VOD program segment representations comprises a content identification, a content segment start time, and a content segment stop time.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the content identification is one of received from a VOD service provider and selected by a user.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein one of the plurality of program segment representations requires 1 to 10 bytes of memory.

15. The system of claim 9, wherein the index memory is a non-volatile read and write memory (NVRAM).

1 16. The system of claim 9, wherein a user can send a VOD program segment
2 representation as an electronic mail (email) attachment to another set-top-box
3 unit located at a different venue.

1 17. A method comprising:

2 ordering at least one video-on-demand (VOD) program from a VOD
3 service provider from a first set-top-box (STB) unit;

4 playing at least one VOD program;

5 selecting a start and stop time for recording a representation of a segment
6 of the at least one VOD program;

7 converting a VOD program identifier of the at least one VOD program to a
8 text representation;

9 one of converting the text representation of the VOD program identifier of
10 the at least one VOD program into a unique encoded digital representation and
11 receiving a unique encoded digital representation from the VOD service provider;

12 converting the start and stop time for a segment of the at least one VOD program
13 to a digital representation; and

14 storing the VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the
15 start and stop digital representation in an index memory.

1 18. The method of claim 17, further comprising converting the stored VOD
2 program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital
3 representation of the segment of the at least one VOD program to a graphics
4 representation, wherein a user can select the graphics representation to order the
5 segment of the at least one VOD program.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising
2 attaching the stored VOD program identifier encoded digital
3 representation and the start and stop digital representation in an electronic mail
4 (email), and
5 sending the email to a user located at a different venue.

1 20. The method of claim 19, further comprising,
2
3 receiving the email, storing the attached video-on-demand (VOD)
4 program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital
5 representation in a second set-top-box (STB) unit,
6
7 converting the VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and
8 the start and stop digital representation to a graphics representation,

selecting the graphics representation of the VOD program identifier
encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation to order the
segment of the at least one VOD program,

receiving the VOD program segment on the second STB unit,

decoding the VOD program segment, and

formatting the VOD program segment so a user can play the VOD
program segment.

21. A program storage device readable by a machine comprising instructions
that cause the machine to:

order at least one video-on-demand (VOD) program from a VOD service
provider from a first set-top-box (STB) unit;

convert a VOD program identifier of the at least one VOD program to a
text representation;

one of convert the text representation of the VOD program identifier of
the at least one VOD program into a unique encoded digital representation and receive
a unique encoded digital representation from the VOD service provider;

convert a start and stop time for a segment of the at least one VOD
program to a digital representation; and

store the VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the
start and stop digital representation in an index memory.

22. The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the instructions further cause the machine to convert the stored VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation of the segment of the at least one VOD program to a graphics representation, wherein a user can select the graphics representation to order the segment of the at least one VOD program.

23. The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the instructions further cause the machine to

attach the stored VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation in an electronic mail (email), and send the email to a user located at a different venue.

24. The program storage device of claim 23, wherein the instructions further cause the machine to

receive the email, store the attached VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation in a second set-top-box (STB) unit,

convert the VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation to a graphics representation,

receive the VOD program segment on the second STB unit,

decode the VOD program segment, and

10 format the VOD program segment so a user can play the VOD program
11 segment.

008260-27E27960

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A device is provided that includes a first processor connected to a communications channel device. The communications device is capable of receiving and transmitting information to a video-on-demand (VOD) service provider. A VOD content decoder is provided that is connected to the first processor. A video and audio formatting processor is provided that is connected to the first processor and the content decoder. An index memory is provided that is connected to the first processor. The index memory stores a plurality of VOD program segment representations of either whole VOD program content or partial VOD program content. Also provided is a method that includes selecting a start and stop time for recording a representation of a segment of at least one VOD program. The method also includes converting a VOD program identifier of at least one VOD program to a text representation. Also, either converting the text representation of the VOD program identifier of at least one VOD program into a unique encoded digital representation or receiving a unique encoded digital representation from the VOD service provider. Converting the start and stop time for a segment of at least one VOD program to a digital representation. And storing the VOD program identifier encoded digital representation and the start and stop digital representation in an index memory.

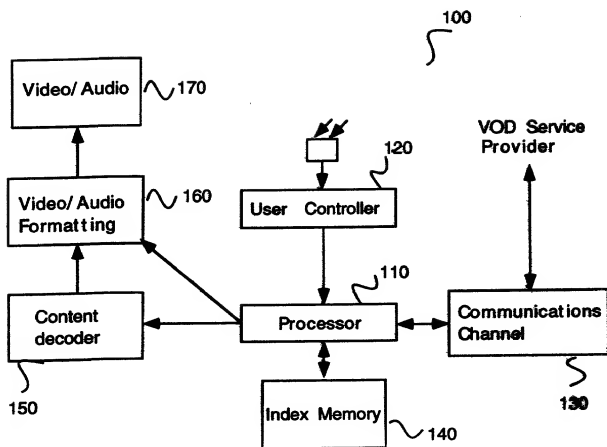


Figure 1.

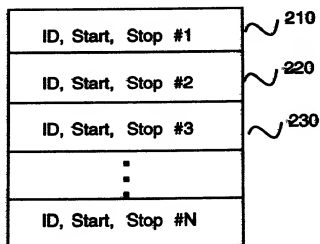


Figure 2.

008260.2222960

<u>Selection</u>	<u>List</u>	TIME
		Selection Displayed
Program 1		
Program 2		
.		
.		
.		
Program N		
Pre-recorded Segment 1		
Pre-recorded Segment 2	(Mary please see this CNN © piece)	
.		
.		
.		
Pre-recorded Segment N		

FIGURE 3.

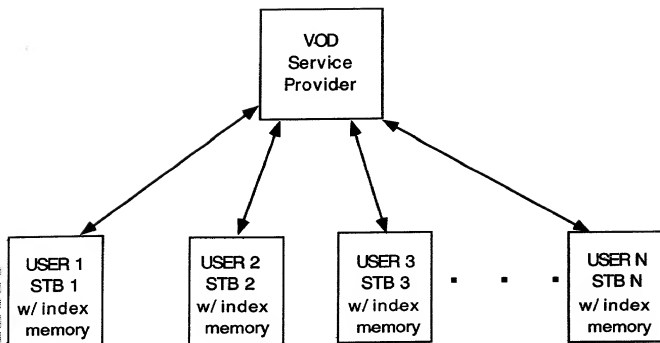


FIGURE 4

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<u>Selection List</u>		TIME	
		Selection	Displayed
Program 1			
Program 2			
.			
.			
.			
Program N			
Pre-recorded Segment 1			
Pre-recorded Segment 2			
.			
.			
.			
Pre-recorded Segment N			
EMAIL			

FIGURE 5.

<u>Selection</u>	<u>List</u>	TIME
		Selection Displayed
	Program 1	
	Program 2	
	.	
	.	
	.	
	Program N	
	Pre-recorded Segment 1	
	Pre-recorded Segment 2	
	.	
	.	
	.	
	Pre-recorded Segment N	
		Address Book
	Enter email address:_____	Subject
	Attachments	Message
SEND	CANCEL	

FIGURE 6.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (ISSUED, PENDING, ABANDONED)

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full Name of Sole/First Inventor (given name, family name)

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Inventor's Signature

Louis A. Lippincott

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